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PROGRAM

for the

Section on Education and Legislation

of the

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

Indianapolis Meeting

SEPTEMBER 3d TO 8th, 1906

Two sessions will be held by this Section, one on Tuesday at 3 o'clock p. m., and the other on Wednesday at 10 a. m.

Contributed papers will be received and read as they may most appropriately fit into the program with regard to the topics to be discussed.

The propositions to be submitted to the Joint Conference of Boards and Faculties of Pharmacy will be discussed by the Section as their importance and the time at the disposal of the Section may in its judgment permit, the object being to determine, for the information of that Conference, the views of the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association. The Section is requested to make recommendations to the Joint Conference of Boards and Faculties indicating its views concerning these propositions which will be acted upon by said Conference at its session held on Thursday at 3 p. m.

16420

PROGRAM.

1. Address of the Chairman, Oscar Oldberg.

2. Report of the Secretary, J. W. England.

3. Discussion of and recommendations concerning the propositions to come before the Joint Conference of Boards and Faculties, as follows:

FIRST: All laws and regulations governing the licensing of pharmacists should make due distinction between apprentices, clerks and principals, and should establish definite minimum qualifications and indicate the rights and duties of each of these three classes of pharmaceutical workers.

[All three classes necessarily exist everywhere. The character of the pharmacy and pharmacists of the future depends primarily upon the calibre of the apprentices of today.

Apprentices are persons permitted to *assist* in the pharmaceutical work of the drug store for the purpose of learning pharmacy under *immediate supervision,* and not permitted to sell or dispense poisons or to compound prescriptions. They must be of sufficient age and mental efficiency to be really fit beginners and learners and to become finally fit pharmacists; otherwise their apprenticeship can be of no value.

Assistant Pharmacists or drug clerks must be safe practical dispensers, competent to perform all the ordinary duties in pharmacies as the agents of the principals in charge and under the *general direction* of the latter, but *not* permitted to conduct or manage pharmacies on their own responsibility. They should be fit and privileged to perform any duties assigned them by the principal or pharmacist in charge and to do this in the temporary absence of said principal. "Temporary absence" should be permitted to extend over reasonable periods compatible with the requirement that the principals must exercise such general direction and supervision as responsible managers only can give.

Pharmacists authorized to conduct or manage pharmacies should be competent to not only perform any duty which the assistant pharmacist is permitted to perform, but should in addition possess such education and experience as shall constitute them fit and responsible directors and managers.

Each licensed pharmacist who is the responsible principal of a pharmacy should be in fact its *bona fide* director or manager, and should not be permitted to manage or conduct more than one pharmacy except with the aid of an additional licensed principal pharmacist acting as assistant manager in charge of each additional pharmacy.

Apprentices are now registered in only six states. Assistant pharmacists are mentioned and registered in twenty-nine states. Other states ignore apprentices and clerks and provide for only pharmacists authorized to conduct pharmacies on their own responsibility—a condition which has a tendency to lower the standard of qualifications.]

SECOND: The age of seventeen years and a preliminary general education of one year's satisfactorily completed high school work, or its educational equivalent, should be the minimum prerequisites to the practical pharmaceutical experience or apprenticeship demanded by the laws, and no drug store experience acquired at an earlier age or before the attainment of the preliminary education prescribed should be accepted as sufficiently effective to satisfy the intent of the law.

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[The adoption of this rule does not prevent the employment of children under seventeen years with less than one year's high school education in drug stores; it only prevents the recognition or acceptance of their employment as legally admissible evidence of fit preparation for license to practice pharmacy.

Some preliminary general education is prescribed either by law or by the rules of the Pharmacy Boards in twelve states. The Michigan law requires virtually two years high school work as one of the prerequisites to the registration of pharmacists and assistant pharmacists; but that law fails to regulate apprenticeship. In other states one year of high school attendance is demanded, and in still others only grammar school graduation. But it would seem to be evident that all of the general education which may be deemed necessary to the making of intelligent and competent pharmacists *should precede the apprenticeship.* Should the law give the boards of pharmacy the power to prescribe the qualifications of apprentices?

THIRD: **The age and preliminary general education prescribed for legally sufficient drug store training should also be prerequisites for admission to schools of pharmacy.**

[Nearly all of the well known and efficient schools of pharmacy already require one year's high school work or much more for admission. In New York the law prescribes it, and twenty-eight pharmaceutical schools are registered in that state as fulfilling these admission requirements. The boards in the other states can prescribe the educational entrance requirements by defining the conditions upon which they will give recognition to schools of pharmacy. But it seems clearly necessary that the preliminary general education required for admission to apprenticeship should be definitely fixed. Many advocate high school graduation.]

FOURTH: **No person should be licensed as a pharmacist or given the right to conduct a pharmacy on his own account, or as a manager, who has not reached the age of legal responsibility.**

[In seventeen states the law places no age restriction whatever upon the licensing of pharmacists; but the boards of those states probably refuse to license candidates under twenty-one years of age. Assistants should be 21 and principals 22 or 23.

In eight states the laws specifically permit boys of eighteen years to open and conduct drug stores and to sell morphine, opium, cocaine and all other poisons without let or hindrance and to preside over the dispensing of physicians' prescriptions three years before they have attained the age of legal responsibility.]

FIFTH: **In the determination of the fitness of any applicant to receive a license to practice pharmacy, all important facts of his educational history, practical experience and technical services should be taken into account, including his preliminary general education, his special education in pharmaceutical and other related technical schools, his practical experience in pharmacy and the results of the examinations he has passed, and an average of these several factors, each assigned its appropriate value, should be adopted as the passing grade. Substantial credit should be given each candidate for any satisfactorily completed courses of education in pharmaceutical schools according to their extent and character.**

[The prevalent practice seems to be to ignore actual education except so far as its existence may be deduced from the results of the examinations. The required age and drug store experience having been proven, the fate of the candidate is usually determined by the "general average" found by dividing the sum of the ratings in all branches of the examination by the number of branches, as if all branches were of equal importance.

It seems impossible that, for instance, the identification of "specimens" can be of importance as a factor in making up the average representing the candidate's fitness.

And should not the general standing of the candidate in the examination be then added to the credits which he may be found entitled to on account of his general education, special education and the extent and character of his practical experience in pharmacy and chemistry, and the grand total divided in accordance with a rational rule to arrive at his probable efficiency?]

SIXTH: The laws and the rules of the Boards of Pharmacy should be so framed and construed as to require sufficient practical experience in pharmacies independently of courses of study, but to the end that substantial courses in the pharmaceutical schools may not be discouraged the laws and the Board rulings should not require persons who take longer courses to wait a correspondingly longer time before they are enabled to secure their license. The minimum total period prescribed for both college education and practical experience in pharmacies should, therefore, be the same for all persons without reference to the length of the college courses they may have completed, and should be sufficient to include a full two years' course in a pharmaceutical school.

[The rule seems to be that at least two years' experience of the right kind in pharmacies of the right kind should be demanded as a prerequisite to the licensing of pharmacists, and at least one year of such experience to the licensing of assistant pharmacists, independently of the courses of education in pharmaceutical schools.

Should not a candidate for license be required to prove four years' drug store experience if he has had no college training, three years' experience if he has finished one year's work in a school of pharmacy, and two years' drug store experience if he has completed a full two years' course in a pharmaceutical school?

Likewise, should not a candidate for license as an assistant be required to prove three years' drug store experience if he has not attended a school of pharmacy, and two years' drug store experience if he has at least one year's college work to his credit?

A year ago the American Pharmaceutical Association registered its approval of the proposition that assistants should serve for two years before they are eligible for full license as registered pharmacists. Shall that vote stand as expressing the sense of this Association?]

SEVENTH: Definite and uniform conditions of efficiency should be adopted which all pharmaceutical schools must comply with in order to receive recognition by the Boards of Pharmacy in all cases where students and graduates of such schools receive credit in any form for the courses they have completed or for the time of attendance at such schools, these conditions of efficiency to be made public and to be applied equally to all schools.

The conditions of efficiency prescribed for the recognition of schools of pharmacy should relate solely to matters affecting the character of their educational work.

[Equipment, organization and government, number of teachers, subjects taught, total number of weeks, school days and school hours required for the completion of the courses of instruction, the educational entrance requirements, and the conditions under which the school work is done and the degrees conferred—all these are important. But the efficiency of a school of pharmacy does not in the least degree depend upon whether or not drug store experience is required for graduation, nor upon the age of its graduates if the matriculants are not admitted too early to be fit students. The shop experience necessary to secure the license should be verified by the boards, not by the colleges.]

EIGHTH: **Special education for the practice of pharmacy is in this age a necessity and should as rapidly as possible be made compulsory, and the rules of the Boards of Pharmacy should be such as to promote and encourage it in all practicable ways.**

The special pharmaceutical education required should include substantial laboratory courses.

[College courses for the special education of pharmacists have for generations been compulsory in nearly all countries. Even such new countries as the British colonies require college education for pharmacy. So far only two of our own states demand it by specific legal enactment, and one state by rule of the Board of Pharmacy. Most of our pharmacy laws clearly confer upon the boards ample power to demand proper education for pharmacy. Legal opinion has so decided.

The movement to elevate the standard of pharmaceutical education in America is gaining in strength and extent. There is no apparent reason why this movement did not begin earlier.

But in thirteen states no credit whatever is given for systematic special education for pharmacy. In twenty-one states the time of college attendance of students is deducted from the drug store service required of all others. In eight states the graduates of pharmacy schools requiring drug store experience for graduation are exempt from the board examinations and licensed without further question. The new Iowa law authorizes the licensing of graduates of pharmacy without any drug store experience.

In some states persons are licensed as pharmacists who have had neither drug store experience nor college courses; in others, licenses are issued on the basis of drug store experience without college training; in others upon college training without shop experience.

In most states the paramount requirement seems to be not education but the ability to pass the board examination.

In states where no credit whatever is given for systematic pharmaceutical education, candidates who do not take a course in a school of pharmacy can of course secure their license earlier by just the time required to take such a course. In other words, education is systematically and effectively discouraged. Can not something be done to remedy these chaotic conditions?]

NINTH: **Graduates of Schools of Pharmacy registered by the Boards as fulfilling the prescribed conditions of efficiency should be exempt from the Board examinations, except in prescription reading and dispensing, upon satisfactory evidence that they have successfully completed systematic courses of instruction in such schools extending through two school years of not less than eight months each, with not less than twenty-five hours instruction weekly, of which not less than sixteen hours shall be laboratory work, the**

evidence of their graduation being accepted as a sufficient equivalent to the passing of the Board examination, provided all other legal requirements for license shall be fulfilled, and provided further the candidate shall have had two years' high school education; but no person should be granted a license to practice pharmacy unless he shall have successfully passed a practical examination in the proper reading of prescriptions and the art of dispensing.

[The object of this proposition is, of course, to encourage students to take more substantial courses than are customary. All schools in good standing would probably very quickly respond to a greater demand for somewhat more extended courses. But if a full two years' course in pharmacy should be made obligatory for full license this rule would be unnecessary.

Schools of pharmacy can not exist and do good work without support. The great majority of students, of course, take the courses requiring the least expenditure of time, labor and money. Should not some inducement be held out to them to take longer courses?]

TENTH: Persons who have not given sufficient time and attention to the study of the subjects included in the Board examinations in pharmacy should not be admitted to said examinations. All applicants for admission to such examinations should be required to submit proper evidence that they have satisfactorily completed systematic courses of study in the subjects upon which they are to be examined, which subjects should be named and described in public announcements issued by the Boards.

[The correctness of this proposition is plain enough. It is an unwritten law that every citizen has the right to be informed upon what terms he may engage in any lawful occupation.

The publication of a syllabus as described in the next proposition would in part satisfy the requirement that definite public announcement be made of the preparation necessary to attain the educational qualifications and efficiency demanded for license to practice pharmacy.]

ELEVENTH: A Syllabus of Pharmacy Examinations should be prepared by a Committee of this Conference which shall indicate the subjects to be included in the Board examinations as well as in the courses of instruction in the pharmaceutical schools, with the view to the attainment of a reasonably uniform standard of minimum requirements which may be adopted by all Boards and Schools.

[Such a syllabus is a necessary part of any plan to secure a fair degree of uniformity of educational standards.

This system is not new. It has been practiced most successfully by the State Education Department of New York in connection with the schools of that state, and with it the employment of uniform examination questions prepared by that department for all the schools of the state. See next proposition.]

TWELFTH: A national Committee on Examination Questions should be appointed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, which committee should consist of members, including experienced specialists in the subjects mentioned in the Syllabus of Pharmacy Examinations, who shall, under the direction of the said Association, prepare questions suitable for the examinations to be held by such State Boards of Pharmacy as may avail themselves of the services of said Committee.

[Some boards hold only one or two examinations a year; others as many as six. This makes no difference. Six sets of examination questions would be sufficient each year, no set to be used more than once. But all boards can hold their examinations concurrently so that all candidates in all states take their examinations on the same identical dates and have identical questions to answer. Such a method would at once insure absolute uniformity so far as relates to all printed questions used. It would further greatly reduce the cost of holding the examinations.

A well considered and consistent plan of board examinations would be insured without difficulty if the men to do this work are carefully selected.]

THIRTEENTH: We recommend to all concerned that the foregoing principles and standards be adhered to in any amendments to the pharmacy laws hereafter proposed in order that national uniformity may be ultimately attained. The minimum requirements indicated, and especially the preliminary general education, should be increased from time to time as circumstances permit.

We further strongly urge that the Boards of Pharmacy employ the discretionary powers already theirs under the existing laws to improve the educational status of the pharmacists of the future.

[All the annotations in brackets have been inserted by the Chairman.]

Papers have also been invited on the following topics which are submitted to the Section on Education and Legislation by its officers:

4. THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL PURE FOOD AND DRUG LAW.
5. LAWS RESTRICTING THE SALE OF HABIT PRODUCING DRUGS AND OTHER NARCOTICS, AND OF MEDICINES AND OTHER ARTICLES OF CONSUMPTION CONTAINING SUCH DRUGS.
6. LEGAL RESTRICTION OF THE PERCENTAGE OF ALCOHOL IN MEDICINES BY TAXATION OR OTHERWISE.
7. PROPRIETARY PREPARATIONS INTRODUCED THROUGH THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.
8. SHOULD NOT THE PRESCRIBING OF SECRET REMEDIES OR OF PROPRIETARIES, THE COMPOSITION OF WHICH IS UNKNOWN TO THE PHYSICIAN, BE PROHIBITED BY LEGAL ENACTMENT?

9. What attitude should the American Pharmaceutical Association assume toward legislation designed to control the sale of proprietary medicines?

10. How is the profession of pharmacy affected by the sale of so-called "patent medicines" and other similar products?

Other topics related to education and legislation may be introduced so far as time permits.

The nomination of officers will take place immediately before the adjournment of the First Session.

First in the order of business of the Second Session will come the reading of the minutes of the previous session, after which the election of officers will follow.

Upon the conclusion of the business included in this program *new business* will be in order.

The installation of the officers elect will immediately precede final adjournment.

Oscar Oldberg, *Chairman.*
J. W. England, *Secretary.*
David F. Jones,
George M. Beringer,
John T. McGill,
Officers of the Section.